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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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1. The followings is a list of government-controlled Foreign Trade Corporations in Czechoslovakia, and the subdivisions therein.

- a. Motokov- Corporation for import and export of vehicles, accessories for same, and related items.

Headquarters: Prague II, Trida Dukelsky Hrdinu 47.

It is organized, like the others, into many sections each of which deals with a type of production. The range is rather extensive, but there is little information on this point.

- (1) Section 731: bottles, thermos, etc. (materials are difficult to import; production average; no imports into Italy, but negotiations are pending; directors are: Holy (fmu), Pejcha (fmu), and Kobza (fmu));
- (2) Section 722: bicycle accessories (production is inferior to the national average; no imports into Italy; negotiations were interrupted, since prices were too high; directors are: Koncelik (fmu), Hlavacek (fmu));
- (3) Section 792: V-belts, storage battery cases, rubber inner tubes (one of the most important and best equipped sections; production of low cost V-belts is optimum);
- (4) Section 782: machine blowers, industrial belts, etc. (production is not yet known; material used is good; prices are moderate; little exporting; directors are: Hlady (fmu), Jiskova (fmu), and Kartova (fmu));
- (5) Section 751: household articles, beaters, meat choppers, etc. (production good; directors are the same as those of Section 731);

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- (6) Section ?: motorcycles (material used is good but not as improved as in Italy, Germany and England; detailed information is not yet available).

b. Ligna - Corporation for importing and exporting wood and products of the wood industry.

Headquarters: Prague II, Vodickova 41; post office box 667, tel. 264.51 - 354.47.

It is subdivided into numerous sections which deal with wood and wood products.

- (1) Section 451: curved chairs and furniture (Lightonet factory of world fame; extensive production and exporting; excellent products, well known throughout the world; famous Thonet chairs; extensive market; excellent prices);
- (2) Section 452: miscellaneous furniture (Thonet factory complex; production moderate; not used by Western markets; prices relatively high; director is Stjanova (fmu));
- (3) Section 141: stringed musical instruments (Cremona factory of Luby-Schoenbach; production not yet known; much offered, pending negotiations not yet completed; prices apparently good);
- (4) Section 142: wind musical instruments (Amati factory of Kraslice; products seem good; middling prices which tend towards good);
- (5) Section 143: pianos (importing going on; products are good and the prices suitable; it is an article which is making headway);
- (6) Section 163: wooden crates (these are only now appearing on the international markets; the possibilities are not known exactly; the wood is good; prices unknown);
- (7) Section 134: cardboard of various types and wrapping paper (Papco concern, address: Trida Politickych Veznu 10; product not the best but average; production reduced and therefore little exporting; director is Hott (fmu));
- (8) Section 122: papcocel, corrugated paper, and analogous types (production is being increased; prices quite good; production not yet known).
- (9) Section 1322: prefabricated houses (Holzpauser Montiebare factories; production modest; attempts to make them self-supporting on the national market have failed; prices good but production is standard);
- (10) Section 132: wooden barrels, large vats, plugs, benches for beer houses and beer industry production in general; (large international market; directors are: P. Karen. and F. Stybar);

c. Keramika - Corporation for import-export of porcelain, ceramics and related articles.

Headquarters: Prague I, post office box 753.

It is subdivided into numerous sections because of the vast range of production.

- (1) Section 142: medical ceramics (large production; fair prices; large import-export; material is good; directors are: F. Mach and Cikankova (fmu));
- (2) Section 122: glass; (directors are D. Babor and J. Jerabek);
- (3) Section 151: chamottes and firebricks (good production; strong East German competition; prices range around the average but are lower than those of the internal market; the chamotte stones are excellent and well liked on the market);
- (4) Section 221: floor slabs (production not yet known; negotiations pending; German competition very strong; fair prices);
- (5) Section 330: abrasives (good production; current prices);
- (6) Section ?: insulators (panelling, etc.; production good; German competition; prices good);

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d. Jablonex - Corporation for import-export of Jablonec articles.

Headquarters: Jablonec nad Nisou; tel. 2851 - 2 - 3 - 4 and 2868.

This is the only concern with central headquarters at Jablonec. It is subdivided into various sections. It is famous for its jewelry.

- (1) Section 131: christmas tree ornaments of blown glass (production excellent and refined; directors of the section are: V. Kadlcik and B. Chytilova);
- (2) Section 141: artificial diamonds and garnets (wide production and moderate exporting; prices more or less good but the material is no longer valued in Western countries; difficult to sell; extensive exporting to the Orient; directors are: V. Kromarik and M. Schnirch);
- (3) Section 151: unset stones for glass jewelry and artificial pears (moderate production and sufficient exporting; good prices; directors are: N. Fiser and Josef Voprada);
- (4) Section 132: glass buttons (good production; moderate exporting; good prices; items sufficiently refined);

e. Chemapol - Corporation for import-export of chemical products and raw materials.

Headquarters: Prague II, Panska 9; tel. 244941 - 256941 - 248941.

It includes all production of chemical products and their derivatives with the exception of products earmarked for military study and military uses. It is subdivided into various sections.

- (1) Section 1122/35: lampblack (extensive production; formerly sent to eastern countries but now also to the West; directors are: A. Glomb and N. Benes);
- (2) Section 1122/224: mountain wax (sic) and related products (extensive production; frequently offered but little exporting; mountain wax is no longer used widely by western countries; prices not completely available; directors are the same as those in Section 1122/35);
- (3) Section ?: paraffin and derivatives (offered moderately; production sufficiently extensive; little demand; prices rather high);
- (4) Section 1715/621: aktivurs G.T.L. (sic) (little demand; no business carried on until now; prices not current; directors are Arslianova (fmu) and Huvar (fmu));
- (5) Section 1713/581: toluol and xylol (moderately offered; little demand; extensive production; prices rather high; directors are: Huvar (fmu) and D. Cada);

f. Pragoexport - Corporation for domestic and foreign commerce, for import-export of various articles and accessories, for manufacturing and for wearing apparel.

Headquarters: Prague II, Jungmannova 34.

It is organized into various sections which in effect regroup the famous Koh-i-noor concern.

- (1) Section 312: accessories for footwear and for footwear machines; (production sufficiently extensive; moderate exporting; directors are: Vera Pinkova and J. Zaijcek);
- (2) Section 314: suitcases, pocketbooks, etc. (extensive production; offered repeatedly; moderate exporting; prices good; director: Palecek (fmu));
- (3) Section 315: wood workings and ornaments (small purses, statues, etc.; German and Austrian competition);

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(4) Section 316: rubber toys, tennis rackets, wooden beads and various games (extensive production and repeated offerings; good prices);

(5) Section 321: artificial flowers, artificial feathers, flower pots, pearl buttons and related products (little exportation; director: Bock (fmu));

g. Glassexport - Corporation for the exportation of glass.

Headquarters: Prague II, Václavské Namesti 1, post office box 795.

(1) Section 15: crystal chandeliers, chandelier prisms, etc. (extensive and well known production; much exporting throughout the world; directors: Ortuba (fmu), Oestreicher (fmu), and Vogel (fmu));

(2) Section 14: glass plates;

(3) Section 131: pressed glass plates and glass bricks (large production; strong German competition; prices good but high customs duty; difficult to popularize);

(4) Section 172: window glass, glass containers for batteries, etc. (production varied and elaborate);

(5) Section 191: ordinary glass bottles, aquariums, industrial glass, glass jewelry, etc. (large production and moderate exporting; chance of becoming popular; good prices);

(6) Section ?: various glass tubing (good prices; good production).

h. Centrotex - Corporation for import-export of textile products.

Headquarters: Prague VII, Trida Dukelsky Hrdinu 530.

This concern groups together all the industries in the textile field. The exportation in this field is quite modest, against a vast field for importation. In addition Czech textile products are not highly valued.

(1) Section 660: felts for men and women (good production; exporting to Turkey; women's felts are heavy but of good construction; directors: R. Sulc and J. Mira);

(2) Section 320: wool waste and other waste (fair products; presently the Czechoslovak industry cannot dispose of the export items which were to have been absorbed by the "People's Democracies"; little opportunity for these items becoming popular in western countries; textiles, however, are good and sufficiently valued; these products were offered at one time and only lately has exporting to the West been stopped.);

(3) Section 521: imitation furs (good production; good prices; offered repeatedly; chance for success; directors: Bina (fmu) and Prochazka (fmu));

(4) Section 641: ribbons and other related items (type of production is unknown; directors: Lipavsky (fmu) and Kanakova (fmu));

i. Artia - Corporation for import-export of cultural articles.

Headquarters: Prague II, Ve Smeckach 30; post office box 790.

This concern was recently set up. It has been entrusted almost completely to women, who have done a good job. Commercial organization is still lacking. It controls all sectors which can be defined as artistic or cultural. The sections have not yet been numbered.

(1) Section ?: Bohemian garnets; until now little exporting; large offerings; prices a bit high;

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- (2) Section 2: phonograph records (made by the Supraphon factory; fair in quality; many still made for 78 rpm; production of long playing records is being increased; prices good but quality only fair);
- (3) Section 2: sport jewelry (articles not yet known; they are well spoken of; prices are just; little demand; directors: Necesanova (fmu) and Tabeslikova (fmu));
- (4) Section 2: books for youth (continues the old production which formerly was noted for its printing of children's books);
- (5) Section 2: stamps (has raised some interest among philatelists; little chance for success);
- (6) Section 2: gramophones and record players (the gramophones are worth little; they are the hand-operated type and no longer in use on the western market; the record players, however, are excellent - they are very simple, light and adaptable; competition in prices; large sales expected on national market).

Other sections which are to complete the cultural and artistic sector are in the preparatory stage at Artia.

j. Centrokomise - Corporation for import-export of foodstuffs.

Headquarters: Prague, Konviktska 5; post office box 215.

Deals with the importing (and potentially also exporting) of non-perishable foodstuffs: cocoa, sugar, dry fruit, cheese, etc. It is subdivided into various sections according to the type of foodstuff. It works exceptionally hard because of the large amount of importation with which it deals.

k. Koospol - Corporation for the import-export of agricultural products and necessities.

Headquarters: Prague VII, Trida Dukelsky Hrdinu 47.

Deals with the importing (practically no exporting) of fresh fruit, fresh greens, citrus fruits, seeds of all kind, etc. It works intermittently because of the small production in this field. It is subdivided into sections according to the type of product. It is managed by Dr. Kott (fmu).

l. Metalimex - Corporation for the import-export of metals.

Headquarters: Prague.

m. Ferromet - State corporation for the import-export of iron products and their derivatives.

Headquarters: Prague.

This concern along with Metalimex carries out import activity especially in the field of raw materials of strategic importance.

n. Metrans - International corporation for land, sea and air transportation.

Headquarters: Prague I, Na Prikope 8.

It has branches under other names in Switzerland and has connections with all the most important firms in this field throughout the world.

- (1) Section 251: various cloths (yard goods, imitation velvets, etc.; moderate production; the raw fabric is perhaps superior to the Italian; prices more or less good);
- (2) Section 451: shoes (Bata factory; prices too high; moderate production for western tastes; move slowly in stores; production absorbed by Russia and Poland);

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- (3) Section ?: glass wool, mattresses, etc. (good material; production postponed; competition in prices; exporting to more countries in progress);
  - (4) Section 412: electrical precision instruments (output not yet known in Italy, though it is said to be good).
2. The banking concern through which all payments are made is:
- Statni Banka Ceskoslovenska (Czechoslovak State Bank), Prague II, Vavelske Namesti 41.
3. In business matters, Czechoslovakia does not have any political prejudices. Rather it is opposed to dealing with firms which are obviously Communist or in contact with the Italian Communist Party. They fear being boycotted if they have contacts with these firms and resist their overtures in every way. In addition Czechoslovakia does not have any faith in the financial solidity of these firms. Czechoslovakia seeks in every way to deal with responsible people who are above all suspicion.



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